

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, 7-10 and 13 are in this case. Claims 3, 7-10 and 13 have been rejected under § 102(b). Claim 4 has been rejected under § 103(a). Claims 3, 7-10 and 13 have been objected to. Independent claim 13 has been amended.

The claims before the Examiner are directed toward a system board with a connector with two ports. One port faces outward at an exterior edge of the system board. The other port faces inward to the interior of the system board.

§ 102(b) Rejections – Takase et al. ‘107

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 7-10 and 13 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takase et al., US Patent No. 6,261,107 (henceforth, “Takase et al. ‘107”). The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Takase et al. ‘107 teach a system board 2 that includes an intermediate connector 6. An engagement portion 15 of connector 6 faces outward from system board 2 to engage with a cable connector 4. An engagement portion 14 of connector 6 faces downward to engage with a surface mount connector 5 that is soldered to system board 2.

The Examiner has interpreted both engagement portion 15 and engagement portion 14 as “ports”. However, engagement portion 14 is not a “port” as that term is used in the above-identified patent application, because engagement portion 14 engages with system board 2 itself, via surface mount connector 5, rather than with a component external to system board 2. The term “port” is defined in the specification of the above-identified patent application specifically to exclude engagement

mechanisms such as engagement portion 14. This exclusion is on page 5 line 23 to page 6 line 3 of the specification:

Note that in the present context a “port” is understood to be an arrangement, typically but not necessarily a recess, in the connector, that facilitates a mechanical and electrical connection of the connector to a peripheral device. So, for example, pins 56 at the base of housing 58 of connector 52 are specifically *not* a port as herein understood because pins 56 connect to motherboard 50 and not to a peripheral device. (underlined emphasis added)

Therefore, system board 2 of Takase et al. ‘107 does not fall within the scope of independent claim 13. Furthermore, even if engagement portion 14 were to be understood as a “port”, system board 2 of Takase et al. ‘107 still would not fall within the scope of independent claim 13 because engagement portion 14 of connector 6 faces downward, towards system board 2, not inward relative to system board 2. Compare connector 6 of Takase et al. ‘107 to connector 70 of the present invention, as illustrated in Figures 3A, 3B and 4. Port 72 of connector 70 faces outward relative to motherboard 80. Port 74 of connector 70 faces inward relative to motherboard 80. Pins 56 of connector 70, that are the analog in connector 70 of engagement portion 14 of connector 6 of Takase et al. ‘107, face downward relative to motherboard 80.

Thus, the present invention, as recited in independent claim 13, is not anticipated by Takase et al. ‘107. Furthermore, the present invention, as recited in independent claim 13, is not even obvious from Takase et al. ‘107. There is neither a hint nor a suggestion in Takase et al. ‘107 of a connector with ports that face both outward and inward with respect to system board 2.

With independent claim 13 allowable in its present form, it follows that claims 3 and 7-10, that depend therefrom, also are allowable.

§ 103(a) Rejections – Takase et al. '107

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takase et al. '107. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

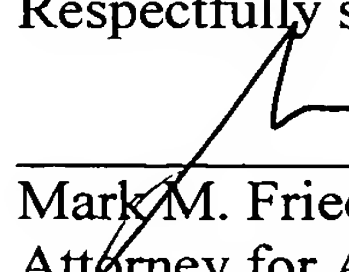
It is demonstrated above that independent claim 13 is allowable in its present form. It follows that claim 4, that depends therefrom, also is allowable.

Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 3, 7-10 and 13 because of an ambiguity in claim 13. Specifically, claim 13 recites "a first port facing outward at an exterior edge of the system board". This language could be misinterpreted to mean that the first port faces towards the exterior edge of the system board. Therefore, claim 13 has been amended to clarify this matter by stating that the first port is situated at an exterior edge of the system board and faces outward from the exterior edge of the system board. Support for this amendment is found in the specification in Figure 4, that shows connector 70 with port 72 situated at an exterior edge of motherboard 80 and facing outward from the exterior edge of motherboard 80.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 13, and hence dependent claims 3, 4 and 7-10 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark M. Friedman
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,883

Date: December 5, 2004